GREEN, Rev. Thomas - April 1919 (067)

Grace Methodist Church

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REV. THOS. GREEN, M. A., B. D.
PASTOR

RESIDENCE: S. E. COR. MAPLE & ALDER
P. O. Box 36 TELEPHONE 82 X

DUNNVILLE, ONT., April 26th 1919

Sir Robert Falconer, L.L.D.,
President Toronto Univ.,
Toronto,
Ont.

Dear and Hon. Sir;—

I have just recently had a talk with a disappointed father and as an honor graduate (B.A. 02, M.A. 06) I offered to write you direct assuring him that if anything could be done you could suggest how or offer a satisfactory explanation.

This man gave three sons to the war and a fourth was ready to go when the armistice was signed. The three sons who went to the war were there anywhere from two to four years Fortunately they have all returned But all were wounded gassed or shell shocked. Each was in different war zones and each won the military medal for bravery. Bob is a three years art's man at Toronto

and expects I believe to finish his
fourth year and then possibly enter
the ministry. Norman has married
and expects to follow a business
career. It is about Lieut. Morley Bennett
that I am particularly writing you.
He won his medal for conspicuous
bravery. All the officers over him were
killed. He and 200 of his men were
left. He took command. They were
faced by 1000 or more Germans.
They were heavily shelled. Morley
was blown 20 feet in the air by
an exploding shell. After coming
down he found his men killed,
wounded and dying. The 200
were reduced to 11. He held that
trench for 8 days against over-
whelming odds. He was decorated
by the King. The shell shock and
awful experience unfitted him for
further active service. He
returned home. Being an
ambitious young man, he
determined to take a college course.
He went to Toronto full of hope
and applied to Toronto University
desiring to take up a Civil
Engineering course. He was turned
down and refused admittance
on the grounds that he didn't
have Senior Matric standing. He
has Junior Matric standing I
believe. He returned home
discouraged and disappointed and
has been working at whatever job he

could get. The father is not only disappointed but is absolutely disgusted and says it is a crime against the young manhood of the country for a University not to give such a young man a chance. Personally I feel disappointed that any University refused to give such a young man a chance. I cannot understand it. In my day young men entered the University as non-matriculants and when they made their first year it was counted as the equivalent of having entered as a matriculant. Why should not this have been done for such a worthy young man as Lieut. Wesley Bennett? If he hadn't gone to the war he could have by this time gotten his Sr. Matric and been partly through his civil engineering course. He is I truly believe capable of completing the course once he was permitted to take it. But he won't go back to High School and the thwarting of his ambitions is forcing him into the ranks of unskilled labor when if the University had but given him a chance he might qualify for a civil engineer.

Wherever his younger brother Basil, who was ready to go to the war when the armistice was signed had hoped also to enter Toronto as

as a non-matriculant (in fact I was encouraging him to do so — I quoted to him the case of W.J. Cotes who entered in my day as a non-matric., he didn't even have his entrance exams into the high school, & who passed with honors in Pol. Sc^t. and is now a distinguished lawyer in western Canada) and because of the treatment his brother recently received is also disappointed

Surely, surely, Toronto University is not going to thwart the ambitions of such young men who have given some of the best student years of their lives to the country. You cannot force such young men back into high school. Toronto surely has some way for them yet to realize their ambitions.

I shall be ever so grateful for a reply from you Sir Robert, which will be satisfactory to the father and which I hope will give these two young men a chance. If they were given a chance and don't make good the University hasn't lost anything. Many young men who are Senior matriculants begin a course and never finish it. If they did make good it brings honor to the University which gave them the chance.

Respectfully yours.

Thomas Green

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April 25th, 1919

Rev. Thomas Green,

Grace Methodist Church,

Gunnville, Ont.

Dear Mr. Green:

I am sorry to find from your letter that Lieutenant Morley Bennett is not able to get into the Civil Engineering class in the University, and I think that surely he cannot have made application in the proper form. We are now in the middle of courses in Civil Engineering, which will end in June, and it would be out of the question for him to enter any of these now. Our staff is such that we cannot repeat them, and they will not begin again until the autumn. However, we have a preparatory class to fit men to enter classes next autumn. One commences this week. I am sending you the forms of application for admission. Will you have Lieutenant Morley Bennett fill these in stating when he took his complete junior matriculation? If he took his complete junior matriculation only a few years ago I should hope that possibly by spending a summer here at honour matriculation he might be able to take up the work of Civil Engineering next autumn with chances of success.

I can assure you that we are as anxious as you are to do everything we can for returned soldiers, but it is a false kindness to allow men to enter classes which they are not

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able to follow. It is for this reason that we have instituted our preparatory work. We realise fully that these men cannot be sent back to school, and yet the amount of preparatory work that a university can do with its staff is extremely limited. We are doing the best we can with the teaching staff that is at our disposal.

Yours sincerely,

President.